

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 IGA-02 /019 W

-----101037Z 122464 /15

R 100948Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3007

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0426

BANGKOK FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL -- COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) RANGOON 345, (B) RANGOON 190, (C) BANGKOK 1141,
(D) STATE 7150, (E) 76 RANGOON 4135

1. FOR USE IN OPERATION MACE, WE LOANED THE BURMESE EIGHT
HALLICRAFTER FM-5B AND 10 HALLICRAFTER FM-1B TACTICAL
RADIOS. DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR COL. MYO
AUNG RETURNED THEM FEBRUARY 2 AND MADE THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS:

A. THESE RADIOS PROVED TO BE HIGHLY USEFUL IN OPERATION
MACE, DURING WHICH THEY WERE EMPLOYED FOR COMMUNICATIONS AT
THE SECTION, SQUAD, AND PLATOON LEVELS.

B. THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF SMALL, PORTABLE RADIO
THE BURMA ARMY NEEDS FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, EXDEPT
THAT THE POWER SOURCE SHOULD BE RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES
INSTEAD OF FLASHLIGHT-TYPE "D" CELLS. (COMMENT: THE
RADIOS WE LOANED THE BURMESE WERE POWERED BY "D" CELLS,
BUT THESE UNITS WILL ALSO ACCEPT SIX VOLT, 2.3 AMP-HOUR
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RECHARGEABLE NICAD BATTERIES.) WITH A SUPPLY OF SPARE
PARTS, THE BURMA ARMY IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING
THIS KIND OF RADIO.

C. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FULLY ADQUATE COMMUNICATIONS
CAPABILITY FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, THE BURMESE
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE 25 FM-5B'S AND 80 FM-1B'S, WITH

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES AND A STOCK OF SPARE PARTS.

2. IF WE COULD GIVE THE BURMESE THE RADIOS ALREADY ON HAND AND PROVIDE RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES FOR THEM, THIS WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NEW RADIOS NEEDED TO 17 FM-5B'S AND 70 FM-1B'S.

3. AS REPORTED IN REF (E), THE GUB IS RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO AN ADDITIONAL BILATERAL AID AGREEMENT WITH US IN ORDER TO GET TACTICAL RADIOS. SINCE THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR THE RADIOS, SINCE THE BURMESE WOULD BE LIKELY TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY, AND SINCE OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO GIVE THEM THE RADIOS WITHOUT A FORMAL, NEW GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT IF THIS CAN BE CONVENIENTLY DONE.
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